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United Nations Forum on Forests
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Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Status of the secretariat.
4. Implementation of the proposal for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the plan of action of the United Nations Forum on Forests:
   (a) Progress in implementation:
      (i) Traditional forest-related knowledge;
      (ii) Forest-related scientific knowledge;
      (iii) Social and cultural aspects of forests;
      (iv) Monitoring, assessment and reporting, concepts, terminology and definitions;
      (v) Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management;
   (b) Means of implementation (finance, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and capacity-building for sustainable forest management) as a cross-cutting issue, in the context of sub-items 4 (a) (i)-(v).
5. Common items for each session:
   (a) Multi-stakeholder dialogue;
   (b) Enhanced cooperation;
   (c) Country experiences and lessons learned;
   (d) Emerging issues relevant to country implementation;
   (e) Intersessional work;

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(f) Monitoring, assessment and reporting;

(g) Promoting public participation;

(h) National forest programmes;

(i) Trade;

(j) Enabling environment.

6. Other matters.

7. Dates and venue of the fifth session of the Forum.

8. Provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Forum.

9. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its fourth session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that, at the commencement of the first meeting of a regular session, the United Nations Forum on Forests shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairperson and such other officers as may be required (see E/5975/Rev.1). According to its resolution 2000/35, in which the Council established the Forum, the Bureau will consist of a Chairperson and four Vice-Chairpersons, one of whom will also act as the Rapporteur, in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

On 6 June 2003, at the first meeting of the fourth session, the Forum elected I Gede Ngurah Swajaya (Indonesia), Yuriy N. Isakov (Russian Federation), Xolisa Mabhongo (South Africa) and Stephanie J. Caswell (United States of America) as members of the Bureau for the fourth session of the Forum. It postponed the election of the Chairperson and one Vice-Chairperson from a Latin America and Caribbean State, as well as the Rapporteur to the later meeting.

The Forum may wish to elect the nominated Chairperson, Yuriy N. Isakov (Russian Federation), and the remaining Vice-Chairperson nominated from a Latin America and Caribbean State, George W. Talbot (Guyana), as well as the Rapporteur for the fourth session of the Forum.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

In accordance with rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Forum shall, at the beginning of the session, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

In its decision 2003/298 of July 2003, the Council took note of the report of the Forum on its third session and approved the provisional agenda for its fourth session.

The Forum may wish to adopt the agenda and the organization of work for the session proposed by the Secretariat.

3. Status of the secretariat of the Forum

The Secretariat will present a report on the status of the secretariat of the Forum, including its activities, staff and budget. The Forum may wish to consider the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the status of the secretariat of the Forum (E/CN.18/2004/3)

4. Implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the plan of action of the United Nations Forum on Forests

In accordance with the multi-year programme of work of the Forum (see Forum resolution 1/1), at its fourth session the Forum will address progress in implementation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF)/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) proposals for action and the plan of action of the Forum under item 4 (b), "Progress in implementation", comprising the following sub-items: (i) Traditional forest-related knowledge; (ii) Forest-related scientific knowledge; (iii) Social and cultural aspects of forests; (iv) Monitoring, assessment and reporting, concepts, terminology and definitions; and (v) Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management. The Forum will address item 4 (b), "Means of implementation", including finance, transfer of environmentally sound technologies and capacity-building for sustainable forest management, in the context of sub-items 4 (a) (i)-(v).

In the documentation listed below, the secretariat has, for each of the elements to be addressed under sub-items 4 (a) (i)-(v), considered the following common items (see annotations to item 5) as relevant: country experience and lessons learned; emerging issues relevant to country implementation; monitoring, assessment and reporting; promoting public participation; national forest programmes; trade; and enabling environment.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on traditional forest-related knowledge (E/CN.18/2004/7)

Report of the Secretary-General on forest-related scientific knowledge (E/CN.18/2004/__)

Report of the Secretary-General on social and cultural aspects of forests (E/CN.18/2004/__)

Report of the Secretary-General on monitoring, assessment and reporting, concepts, terminology and definitions (E/CN.18/2004/__)

Report of the Secretary-General on criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management (E/CN.18/2004/11)

5. Common items for each session

In accordance with its multi-year programme of work, the Forum will address common items under the following sub-items: (a) Multi-stakeholder dialogue; (b)

Enhanced cooperation; (c) Country experiences and lessons learned; (d) Emerging issues relevant to country implementation; (e) Intersessional work; (f) Monitoring, assessment and reporting; (g) Promoting public participation; (h) National forest programmes; (i) Trade; and (j) Enabling environment.

The Forum may wish to consider the following common items that are not considered in the context of item 4 (see annotations to item 4) as self-standing sub-items: multi-stakeholder dialogue; enhanced cooperation; intersessional work.

(a) Multi-stakeholder dialogue

The Forum has noted the value of multi-stakeholder dialogues in advancing the work of the Forum, and has decided that multi-stakeholder dialogues, involving the nine major groups identified in Agenda 21, are to be held at each session, beginning at its second session. It has been suggested that the multi-stakeholder dialogue of each session focus on seeking multi-stakeholder perspectives on the specific agenda items of that session. Accordingly, the multi-stakeholder dialogue at the fourth session of the Forum will focus on: (i) traditional forest-related knowledge; (ii) forest-related scientific knowledge; (iii) social and cultural aspects of forests; (iv) monitoring, assessment and reporting, concepts, terminology and definitions; and (v) criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the multi-stakeholder dialogue, transmitting discussion papers submitted by major groups (E/CN.18/2004/4 and addenda)

(b) Enhanced cooperation

At its first session, the Forum decided to develop and maintain contacts, cooperate and make active efforts to develop synergies with the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the Commission on Sustainable Development and other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as other relevant international and regional processes and organizations, institutions and instruments.

Furthermore, as a result of the deliberations at its third session, under this common item, the Forum, in its resolution 3/4, invited member States and members of the Partnership to provide their views, by the end of February 2004, on specific issues, in relation to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and requested the secretariat to submit a compilation of those views at its fourth session. The outcomes of the discussion on those issues at the fourth session of the Forum will be provided to the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity for information. Based on the views received from member States, the secretariat has compiled the views of member States and members of the Partnership. The secretariat will present an oral report on this topic.

The Forum may wish to consider approaches for enhancing cooperation and policy and programme coordination as well as a message to the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination (E/CN.18/2004/13)

Information document on the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework 2004 (E/CN.18/2003/INF/1)

(e) Intersessional work

In its multi-year programme of work, as outlined in its resolution 1/1, the Forum recommended the convening of three ad hoc expert groups to support its work on the following issues: (a) approaches and mechanisms for monitoring, assessment and reporting; (b) finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies; (c) consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests.

At its third session, the Forum concluded discussions on the titles, composition, terms of reference, scheduling and reporting of the three ad hoc expert groups. In its decision 2003/299, the Council established the three ad hoc expert groups.

In conformity with Council decision 2003/299, the Ad Hoc Expert Group on Approaches and Mechanisms for Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting met in Geneva from 8 to 12 December 2003 and the Ad Hoc Expert Group on Finance and Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies met in Ceneva from 15 to 19 December 2004. The two expert groups are required to submit their reports to the Forum at its fourth session. The Forum may wish to consider the reports.

In decision 2003/299, the Council also requested the secretariat of the Forum to submit to the Forum at its fourth session an information note on progress in the preparation for the meeting of an ad hoc expert group on consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests. The note is for information only and will not be subject to discussion or negotiation at the fourth session of the Forum.

In Forum resolution 2/3, the secretariat was asked, in collaboration with the members of the Partnership, to identify and propose to the Forum at its fourth session a process to facilitate the review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests at its fifth session. The Forum may wish to consider the note prepared by the secretariat on that subject.

Documentation

Report of the Ad Hoc Expert Group on Approaches and Mechanisms for Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting (E/CN.18/2003/2)

Report of the Ad Hoc Expert Group on the Finance and Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies (E/CN.18/2003/5)

Note by the Secretariat on progress in the preparation for the meeting of an ad hoc expert group meeting on consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests (E/CN.18/2004/6)

Note by the Secretariat proposing a process to facilitate the review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests (E/CN.18/2003/__)

6. Other matters

The Forum may wish to consider any matter raised under this item.

It is suggested that the Forum bring up some programme questions related to General Assembly resolution 58/269, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-ninth session a strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007, comprising part one, plan outline, and part two, biennial programme plan, to replace the current medium-term plan.

The Forum is invited to review the proposed biennial programme plan for sustainable forest management (subprogramme 9). The proposed biennial programme plan, modified as appropriate, will be first submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-fourth session. Its recommendations thereon will be transmitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, when it considers the Secretary-General's proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007.

The Forum may wish to consider the note by the Secretary-General.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007 (E/CN.18/2004/CRP.__)

7. Dates and venue for the fifth session of the Forum

Pursuant to Council decision 2001/218, the fifth session of the Forum will be held in New York. The Forum may wish to decide on the dates for its fifth session.

8. Provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Forum

The Forum may wish to recommend to the Council for adoption the provisional agenda for its fifth session, which should be based upon the multi-year programme of work outlined in Forum resolution 1/1.

9. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its fourth session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure, the Forum shall submit to the Council a report on the work of its session.